

GRAIN DEALERS
VOICE PROTEST
ON GRONNA BILLCountry's Trade Leaders
Join in Final Demand for
Control of Wheat.

REPRESENT 10,000 MEN

Corporation Praised as Ob-
jections Are Filed With
Senate Committee.

Opposition to the Gronna bill for the abolition of the United States Grain Corporation was registered by representatives of more than 10,000 grain dealers and mill operators at a final hearing of opponents before the Senate Agricultural Committee yesterday.

A brief signed by eleven heads of boards of trade, chambers of commerce and grain exchanges in the principal cities of the country demanded that the price guarantee to the farmers for the 1919 wheat crop should be made good, and that the United States Grain Corporation continue to function.

Praise for Corporation.
Fred C. Vincent, of Kansas City, representing the farmers and grain exchanges of the great Southwestern wheat producing region, said:

"We have heard much criticism of the United States Grain Corporation. I wish to say in behalf of wheat growers and dealers in my section that we know of no organization that could have handled the abnormal situation that has confronted us in the past two years more effectively than the United States Grain Corporation. It is directed by men of ability in a business-like manner. It has stood ready to take wheat off the hands of dealers at the guaranteed price in spots such as certain Gulf ports where a temporary glut of wheat would otherwise have paralyzed the market and caused untold loss in demurrage. As a matter of fact, the Grain Corporation has relieved situations such as I have described by purchasing millions of bushels, thus stabilizing more millions of dollars loaned by banks and commission merchants on wheat collateral.

"The public should bear in mind that the government price is not the maximum price, but the minimum price. In the past three months farmers have secured, in some cases, 90 to 20 cents a bushel in excess of the government price. None the less the guarantee has been invaluable as a stabilizer of an entirely abnormal market.

"No greater calamity could happen to the Southwest than the withdrawal of this guarantee."

Protest From Baltimore.
W. H. Hayward, president of the Baltimore Chamber of Commerce, denied that the grain exchanges have juggled with wheat prices, and asserted that the Baltimore Chamber of Commerce and Grain Exchange would view with alarm any proposal to abolish the Grain Corporation.

"At present," he said, "any holder of wheat, or paper for which wheat is collateral, can take his receipts or note to the United States Grain Corporation and convert it into cash at once. If this anchor of confidence is removed, a heavy margin on wheat paper would be required, due to the fact that wheat would no longer have a fixed minimum value."

L. F. Gates, president of the Chicago Board of Trade, said:

"I do not like government interference in business, but the idea that the fluctuations in the price of wheat are due either to the dealers or the Grain Corporation is absurd. The government obligation to the farmers, millers and grain dealers, which the United States has assumed, and the Grain Corporation has so far carried out faithfully, must be continued or else the present unsettled conditions will soon verge on panic."

Northwest Solidly Opposed.
P. R. Wells, of the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce, said:

"The grain trade of the Northwest is solidly against this bill. We want no government control after the expiration of the Grain Corporation, and believe that the law of supply and demand operating in open exchanges is the right way to handle the grain business."

"But we feel that the services of the Grain Corporation have been indispensable, and are convinced that it would be an impossibility to turn over to an old organization the liquidation of contracts involving vast sums of money, contracts made on a government guarantee, without producing chaos. It would upset the wheat market not only in this country, but abroad. The government would probably lose heavily, unless it actually repudiated its obligations. It would be impossible to transfer the functions of the Grain Corporation to the Bureau of Markets or any other agency. The effect would be as disastrous as the abolishment of the guarantee, for dealers who have claims on the Grain Corporation know that they can cash them at once."

Under the Bureau of Markets for instance, every obligation would

Finds Her Husband
Dying in Far China

MRS. VIRGINIA PLONK, who followed her husband, Lieut. Plonk, U. S. N., from their home at Norfolk, Va., to the Pacific Coast, Japan, Vladivostok, Manila, Calcutta, Port Said and Shanghai, only to have him die in her arms when she overtook him in a hospital of interior China. She is returning to Norfolk.

GERMANY FLIES
DOVE TO SOVIETSeeks to Forestall Britain in
Russian Trade by Peace
Move.

Berlin, Feb. 18.—The German cabinet decided today to open peace negotiations with Russia immediately. The decision is said to have been prompted by fear that Britain, which is said to be now negotiating with Soviet Russia through James O'Grady, M. P., at Copenhagen, may be the first of the great powers to launch a campaign of "peaceful penetration" in Russia and thus gain tremendous trade advantages over Germany. An unconfirmed report has it that Britain has officially notified the Berlin government that she is negotiating with Russia with a view to finding a working basis for peace.

London, Feb. 18.—The Morning Post's story that considerable progress has been made in the negotiations at Copenhagen between James O'Grady, M. P., and Russian Soviet emissaries, and that the only obstacle to peace now remains Britain's "request" for the demobilization of the Russian army, is making steady headway here today. Reports persist, however, that the Anglo-Russian " rapprochement " is making steady headway.

Army Heads Start Hunt
For War Draft Dodgers

A roundup of wilful draft deserters is to be started at once, the War Department announced yesterday. There are 12,501 listed as drafted deserters. They will be prosecuted vigorously, it was stated.

Lists of offenders will be published, either in whole or locally in sections, for the information of the Department of Justice and local police, it was announced.

Registrants who failed to obey orders or to entrain for mobilization camps, but subsequently served honorably in the army, navy or Marine Corps before the armistice, will be relieved of the charge of draft desertion.

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CABINET CLASH
MAY FORCE OUT
WM. B. WILSONLabor Department Head
Refuses to Comment on
Disagreement.

DISPUTE WITH PALMER

Attorney General's Alleged
Interference Involves
Caminetti.

Amid the maze of rumors that further Cabinet resignations will follow that of Robert Lansing, a hint stands out strongly today that Secretary of Labor William B. Wilson may shortly leave the President's changeable group of departmental executives.

It was freely predicted that Secretary Wilson would take such action last December as the result of his disagreement with Attorney General Palmer over the government's use of the injunction in the coal strike and the discarding of his plan for a 21 per cent increase to bituminous miners in favor of the 14 per cent advance advocated by Dr. Harry A. Garfield, then Federal fuel administrator.

Caminetti's Course Questioned.
The crux of the present situation is an alleged usurpation of power by the Department of Justice over United States immigration stations, involving Anthony Caminetti, commissioner general of immigration. From a source usually authoritative came word that Caminetti recently has administered his bureau in co-operation with the Attorney General and that he has fallen under Secretary Wilson's strong displeasure.

Questioned as to these reported developments last night, the Secretary of Labor replied:

"I cannot discuss a story of the kind."

"Would you undertake to deny it outright?" he was further interrogated.

"I will not discuss it at all," was the final answer.

Absent from Conference.
Another factor in the reported split between Attorney General Palmer and Secretary Wilson is that the latter has been conspicuous by his absence from "outlaw meetings" of the cabinet since the coal strike wrangle. This has been explained by citation of the fact that Mr. Wilson is chairman of the Second Industrial Conference now sitting in Washington and could not spare the time from his labors with this body to attend meetings of the secretaries.

On the other hand, some officials declare the Secretary of Labor studiously avoided all cabinet gatherings at which the Attorney General was present, which is practically all held since December.

Several times, it is disclosed, White House functionaries telephoned Mr. Wilson's office to know whether he would be in attendance at cabinet meetings. The latter's reply was: "Mr. Wilson has gone to the industrial conference."

A test of strength between the two men, it is thought in most quarters, could only result to the disadvantage of Mr. Wilson, who is not conceded the standing in the administration possessed by Mr. Palmer.

Congress Might Investigate.
Another difficulty would confront Mr. Wilson should he elect to demand the resignation of Commissioner Caminetti. The latter's quitting under pressure undoubtedly would mean a sweeping investigation of the Department of Labor by Congress, in which it is to be found a large and powerful element set against this government division and all its ways.

The selection of Mr. Wilson, a former miner, for a Cabinet post always has been regarded as a move by the President to align labor for the Democratic party. And while there is no imputation of favoritism toward labor on Secretary Wilson's part, he is extremely anxious that nothing should occur to damage or cripple the functioning of his department, through which labor is represented, and through whose administration he largely retains his popularity in labor circles. A Congressional investigation might mean just this and the avoidance of an investigation is felt to be dependent

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Legion Calls Upon Congress
To Pass Law Aiding Veterans
Of World War Within 60 Days

The American Legion served notice on Congress yesterday that it expects definite action within the next sixty days on legislation for the benefit of former service men.

This demand was made in a formal statement by the national commander, Franklin D'Olier, at the conclusion of a three-day session of the legion's national beneficial legislation committee. He said:

"The American Legion again recommends strongly to Congress legislation embodying the optional features of land settlement, home aid, vocational training, or an adjustment of compensation, and now does not hesitate to state that it expects definite action within the next few days."

"The American Legion has waited in vain for Congress to take some action to relieve the financial disadvantages of ex-service men and women incidental to their military service, and is quite confident that,

although Congress has had its attention called to this matter, it does not appreciate the urgency of immediate legislation which will show that this government actually is playing fair with ex-service men and women, as they always have and still will play fair with their government."

Here are the four features of the recommendations worked out by the legion's legislation committee:

Land settlement covering all States.

Home aid to encourage purchase of either rural or city homes by ex-service men.

Vocational education for all ex-service persons.

Adjustment of compensation or extra pay, for services based on length of service.

"The ex-service man should be given an option of which one of the four features he desires," said Comdr. D'Olier.

JOHNSON PLOT
IN N. DAKOTA
DENIEDSenator Declares First Inti-
mation of Affair Was
Gleaned from Dispatch.

Branding as an absolute falsehood the statement, contained in a letter read at the North Dakota Republican Convention at Bismarck Tuesday, that he, Senator McCumber, Alex MacKenzie and A. C. Townley had entered into an agreement to control North Dakota politics in their own interests, the story which was printed yesterday in The Washington Herald, Senator Hiram Johnson, in a telegram to Richard Selden Wilcox, at Bismarck, declared that he has had no communication with the parties mentioned and that the letter "was read from parties of whom I have never heard."

Senator Johnson declared that he had heard nothing of the reported agreement to control North Dakota Republican politics, in which he was reputed to be a party, until the publication of the reading of the letter in The Washington Herald yesterday morning. He expressed himself as gratified that the matter was thus brought to his attention in order to give him opportunity to deny what was an "obvious untruth."

Makes Clear-Cut Denial.
In his telegram to Wilcox, Senator Johnson made emphatic denial of the publication. His message, in part:

"I have been astounded to read this morning in The Washington Herald that at some gathering yesterday in Bismarck a letter was read from parties of whom I have never heard, asserting there was an agreement between me, McCumber, MacKenzie and Townley to control North Dakota politics."

"Of course, there is not a word of truth in any such statement. I have had no communication with anybody in North Dakota except myself and those you represent."

"I am in receipt of a long telegram signed by Fraine and Gallagher quoting a resolution adopted yesterday asking all Presidential candidates to keep out of your State. I do not understand the politics of your State nor the motivating motives of the various gatherings recently held. I would greatly appreciate it if you would wire me in detail just the situation and exactly what is transpiring. As you know I have filed my petition as a candidate under your law."

"I have had but one purpose in view, to present to the good people of North Dakota the principles for which I have stood in my State and the nation for more than a decade, and to appeal for their support upon these principles."

"My candidacy in North Dakota, as elsewhere, has been open and aboveboard, dependent upon the people themselves and the friends who believe as I do. I resent such a false charge as, according to The Washington Herald, was made in your gathering yesterday. I am not willing to have my candidacy abide the ultimate determination of delegates who say they are unpledged. I want the people themselves to pass on my candidacy. I insist that the people of North Dakota decide how their delegates shall vote."

Chaloner Award Affirmed.
New York, Feb. 18.—The United States Circuit Court of Appeals has affirmed the judgment in his favor obtained by John Armstrong Chaloner of his libel suit against the New York Evening Post Company. Chaloner sued for \$100,000 and the jury gave him \$30,000. Judge Hand reduced it to \$17,500, which Chaloner accepted.

Old Sheephead Club Burns.
New York, Feb. 18.—A fire today destroyed the three-story Ocean Inn at Sheephead Bay, famous in years gone by as the Sheephead Bay Club, headquarters of the racing fraternity, located in the streets made fighting the fire difficult. The loss was \$35,000.

Wins \$10,000 Heart Balm.
New Brunswick, N. J., Feb. 18.—A verdict of \$10,000 was today awarded by a jury to Sarah A. Houghton in her suit for alleged breach of promise against Dr. Thomas V. Meachem. Miss Houghton is a stenographer employed in Manhattan. She is 35 years old. Meachem is 42.

SUPT. THURSTON
TO GO, HEAD OF
BOARD WRITESDr. Van Schaick, Jr., In-
forms Executive He Will
Not Be Re-elected.

MAY CAUSE DISPUTE

Letter Filed in Meeting's
Minutes With Curt Note
From Official.

Superintendent of Schools Ernest L. Thurston was officially notified Tuesday that he will not be re-elected in June by the board of education, the notification being in the form of a letter from Dr. John Van Schaick, Jr., president of the board.

This unprecedented action was disclosed yesterday afternoon at the regular meeting of the board of education in the Franklin School, when a curt letter from Superintendent Thurston apparently threatening an expose of the board's methods was publicly read and incorporated in the minutes at the request of Thurston, who was absent from the meeting.

Text of Letter.
Thurston's letter follows:

I have received the following communication: Feb. 17, 1920.

Mr. Ernest L. Thurston,
Supt. of Schools, D. C.

Dear Mr. Thurston:

An informal conference of some of the members of the Board of Education shows that a substantial majority of the board will not be able to vote for your re-election in June.

Formal action is not taken at this time because it is the desire of the members in question not to embarrass in any way effort on your part to establish another connection. It seems right to us to let you know before the meeting of the department of superintendence in Cleveland next week.

We desire to add, my own good wishes for your future success.

Yours very sincerely,
(Signed) John Van Schaick, Jr.,
Pres. Board of Education.

"This action was taken without advance warning, without a statement of reasons and without any conference with the superintendent."

To Make Statement.
"At a later date I shall wish to make a statement. For the present, I ask that this letter be entered on the minutes of this meeting in order that the whole action may be made one of official public record, and in order

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REAL "ENOCH ARDEN"
OF A. E. F. DIVORCED

New York, Feb. 18.—John C. Ries, an Enoch Arden in real life, was granted a decree of absolute divorce in a Brooklyn court today so his wife could marry Harry Holmquist.

Ries was a machine gunner with the killed in action. His wife, who was with her parents in Easton, Pa., came to New York after she received word of her husband's supposed death and again after married Holmquist.

Recently Ries returned. He had been badly wounded and in a French hospital. His wife told him she had married Holmquist and Ries, after talking the matter over with Holmquist and his wife, asked for the divorce.

London, Feb. 18.—There is a growing belief at the St. James Club, stronghold of London diplomatic circles, that John W. Davis, United States Ambassador to Britain, will shortly be summoned to Washington to join President Wilson's Cabinet," says the Evening News.

Immediately after Robert Lansing's enforced resignation as Secretary of State a strong report was current at Washington that Ambassador Davis would be asked to succeed him as Secretary of State.

Head of Schools
Told He's to QuitERNEST L. THURSTON,
superintendent of District
schools, who has been in-
formed by Dr. Van Schaick,
president of the Board of
Education, that he will not be
reappointed.CHARGE RETAIL
GUILD FIRMS
PROFITEERFigg Tells Convention of
Belief and Makes De-
mand for Conviction.

New York, Feb. 18.—"I think some violators of the anti-profiteering act are members of this association," Howard E. Figg, assistant United States attorney general told members of the National Retail Dry Goods Association here today.

"They are guilty without trial in my opinion," Figg added, declaring there have been flagrant cases "and I hope conviction will be secured. You should want them eliminated from your association and your business."

Figg advocated increased production, and changes in the taxation laws to reduce prices.

He warned the merchants that the public "will not absorb any additional increases in the prices of essential articles."

Lower prices in the near future were predicted by Salmon P. Halle, president of the association.

"Present high prices will not last much longer," Halle said. "Everybody knows that, and it is up to retailers to prepare for the readjustments which must follow."

More than 1,000 retail merchants from all parts of the country are attending the meeting at the Hotel Pennsylvania.

Halle attacked the government's taxation program, declaring that after income and other taxes had been collected the "excess profits tax comes along and takes the rest of the profits."

Halle denied charges of profiteering against retail merchants.

HINES HOPES HE
CAN QUIT MAY 1

Rail Director Planning to
Resume Law Practice in
Sixty Days.

Railroad affairs will be so adjusted by May 1, according to Director General Hines, of the Railroad Administration, that he will be able to resign and return to the private practice of law. Mr. Hines did not announce this as the exact date on which he will relinquish his directorship over the railroads.

"Although I have not definitely decided upon that particular date for leaving," he said, "I hope that within sixty days the work of liquidation connected with the return of the railroads will have reached such a point that I will be justified in turning over to someone else the remainder of the job."

He expressed the belief that the work of liquidation might require the remainder of the year.

It is expected that today Director Hines will hear from the railroad executives their attitude toward methods of investigating demands of the 2,000,000 railway workers for immediate wage increases. He is to hold a conference with the executives at his office this morning.

President Wilson, it is understood, will reply to the counter proposal delivered to him last Saturday by railroad workers. They suggested that he ask railroad executives to agree to abide by the decision of a joint wage tribunal which would be established as quickly as possible to investigate the wage demands. They asked that this be done so that when railroad union heads meet here February 23, a definite plan of action may be laid before them.

Joseph M. Flannery Dead.
Pittsburg, Feb. 18.—Joseph M. Flannery, 55, "vanadium king" and first producer of vanadium in America, died today at his home here. Flannery had been ill for several weeks with a complication of diseases developing from pneumonia.

ALLIES' REPLY
LEAVES SCOPE
FOR PARLEYINGPresident Soon to Answer
Note on Italo-Jugo-Slav
Problem.

COMMENT IS REFUSED

Message Said to Deny Any
Intent to Ignore U. S. in
Seeking Solution.

President Wilson now has in his hands the allied reply to the State Department's communication on the Adriatic settlement. Both the White House and the State Department refuse to comment upon its nature. Indications, however, are that the door is not closed to America for fresh discussion on the Italo-Jugo-Slav problem.

Meanwhile, the allied powers have extended the ultimatum served on Jugo-Slavia. The extension is dependent upon the President's answer to the new note of the allies and their disposition of it. The President's reply, it is generally expected, will not be long in going forward.

The allied note was sent at the State Department yesterday by ambassador Davis at 12 o'clock. It was immediately decoded and sent to the President. Subsequently the White House and the State Department announced that no official comment would be given out. But it was learned that the allies had been asked if they objected to the publication of the allied notes in this country.

Allies Explain Position.
Officials here are anxious to receive reports from abroad as to the communication from the allies and to tersely sharp and unambiguous tone. Whether the note is really "a second thought," substituted for a sharp and less conciliatory document, cannot be learned with certainty. Dispatches from abroad said that Viscount Grey and Lord Robert Cecil had brought about a "moderation" of the first and possibly impulsive composition, although both deny the charge.

In their reply the allies explain their ultimatum to Jugo-Slavia, and if not excluding it try to show extenuating circumstances for it. They say that the Italo-Jugo-Slav controversy had reached an absolute deadlock and no other way out of the impasse appeared. Denial is made that the allies were or are improperly disposed to ignore the President of America in this or other solution of impending problems.

Nevertheless, reasons, based principally upon Europe's rapid drift toward economic and social chaos, are adduced to prove the necessity of early allied decision on moot questions, it is said. As a means to this end, "realistic elements" in the European situation must now be taken into account as well as political idealism, the allies allegedly intimate. Allied diplomacy also apparently falls back upon treaty conditions in the American Senate as a weapon in its own defense.

Misconception of Allies.
The allies further claim that they thought America's withdrawal from the supreme council left them free to independent action, to some extent, at least. However, contrary to such belief, the American representative before leaving Paris indicated that subsequent negotiations looking toward territorial adjustments should be conducted through the various foreign offices. Territorial decisions under the treaties with countries with which America was at war, or other territorial decisions to which America would be bound by the league of nations, are referred to.

Administration circles predict that in his reply the President will reaffirm his disposition to give adequate protection to Slav rights in Fiume and the Adriatic generally. In this connection the Anglo-French-American proposals of December are unofficially reported to provide:

1.—The right of Italians in Dalmatia to choose Italian nationality.

2.—That Italian national rights in Dalmatian industries should be guaranteed by an international convention.

3.—That Fiume and Zara be internationalized under the league of nations.

4.—That Jugo-Slavia concede to Italy the islands of Lussin and Pelagosa.

5.—That the Jugo-Slavs agree to the demilitarization of the Adriatic islands on condition that the island of Lissa remain Yugoslav.

Opposes Seacoast Roadway.
Whether the President will abandon the strict letter of the above provisions, but stick to their spirit, is at best a speculation. But there are many who believe that he would be willing to agree to a compromise, establishing Fiume as an absolutely independent state. Those say that he has never recognized the Pact of London and is especially opposed to the plan of a seacoast roadway from Trieste to the Adriatic coast.

The exact nature of the President's reply will be known when the Jugo-Slav reply is received.

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